GENERIC DEVICE CONTROLLER UNIT AND METHOD

Abstract of the Invention

An generic device controller unit system (10) includes a generic "true real time" peripheral device controller and a data and protocol communications interface. The system (10) is generic, in that the system (10) is capable of connecting a processor (40) to any number of various peripheral devices (50), instead of being designed to interconnect a processor (40) only to a specific peripheral device (50). The system (10) interfaces between a standard non-true real time operating system and peripheral devices (50) in such a manner as to employ true real time peripheral device control. The device controller of the system (10) allows a standard non-true real time operating system to implement true real time control of peripheral devices (50). The system (10) interfaces between a processor (40) and peripheral devices (50) such that the data and protocol communications interface of the system (10) allows the processor (40) to utilize a single protocol and associated data in order to communicate with peripheral devices (50) which are utilizing different protocols and associated data.